

Hongkong Forces Holding

Our Daily Bread

By NEA Commentator

The Bad News, 1941 and 1976

When it was said that the Japanese had taken Hong Kong, the world was shocked. But the whole world was not shocked, as they were not aware of the fact that the Japanese had taken Hong Kong.

Anti-Fascists Plan Downfall of Mussolini

Russian Embassy Announces Plan to Conclude Italian Peace

The Russian embassy in London announced today that it had received a message from the Italian government proposing a peace conference. The Russian government has agreed to the proposal.

Waste Paper Drive to Begin

Boy Scouts to Conduct House to House Campaign

The drive for waste paper began today with the Boy Scouts of America. They will be collecting waste paper from houses throughout the city.

Schools Spend \$89 for Seals

Christmas Seal Campaign Continues in Hempstead

A total of \$89 was turned in to the Hempstead County office of the Arkansas Tuberculosis Association Friday when the seal sale reports from the city schools were reported.

Bulletins

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The Navy reported today that U. S. submarines had sunk an additional enemy transport. There were no details.

It was announced earlier in the week that U. S. submarines were operating in Japanese waters and had destroyed one transport and damaged a destroyer. Thus the sinking reported was the second to Japanese by U. S. submarine action.

SHOPPING DAYS TILL CHRISTMAS

British Rout Axis Forces on Libyan Front

Derna Captured; Imperial Troops Within 100 Miles of Bengasi

CAIRO—(AP)—The Axis retreat in Libya has turned into a rout with Imperial forces chasing General Rommel's battered army and British advances taking staggering leaps. The British are now within 100 miles of Bengasi.

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U. S. Off to Good Start on Plan for Farm Defense Program, Says the Secretary of Agriculture

Wickard Sees 'Harder Work' for Agriculture

By CLAUDE R. WICKARD, Secretary of Agriculture
Written for NEA Service

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Harder work, more difficulties, but fair rewards for abundant production. That, in my opinion, is the outlook in 1942 for my fellow farmers.

We have before us the biggest and hardest job we farmers ever have tackled. It is only our fair share of the biggest and hardest job the nation ever has undertaken.

Our nation needs an abundance of rich, nourishing food. It is our job to produce it. Other nations, joined with us in our struggle, need American food; we must produce more to supply their needs. We cannot fail.

We have a head start on the job. We began last summer to plan for production in 1942, to meet the food and fiber needs of the nation as fully as they could be anticipated.

1942 Production Plans Laid
Last summer when we set up the goals we found that we needed to make some adjustments in our 1942 production plans to meet rapidly changing conditions.

British food needs and the desirability of building up more reserves for post-war use entered into the calculations, on top of increasing requirements at home.

All things considered, we found we needed to produce less cotton, wheat, and tobacco, and produce more milk, more eggs, and more meat and poultry.

The total production then planned for 1942 represented a net increase of about two per cent over the record high production of 1941, but the job could be done without plowing up any more land.

In general, the 1942 production goals as planned still hold good. We may have to revise them upward in some lines, and as this is going on, we are going over them. We shall notify farmers of the revisions well in advance of planting time.

You farmers were asked to plan your individual production to have a proportionate part in the adjusted production for 1942. The reports submitted by your neighbors who did the farm-to-farm canvass shows that your total production plans meet the 1942 goals with margins to spare.

You know there are difficulties ahead before the plans on paper become food on the table. We're not going to be able to hire as much labor as we were last year as we'll have fewer farm hands.

But regardless of the kind of help we get, I can't see any sure substitute for longer hours and harder work on the part of every member of the farm family.

You're not going to be able to buy much new farm machinery as you'd like, because the metals have to go into war production. We hope there will be plenty for repair parts, but you should certainly get as many spare parts as possible ordered early in the year.

No "War Boom" Prices
You're not being asked to step up production nor the vital farm products and take a risk on the price. The basic crops, cotton, wheat, corn, rice, and tobacco have a floor under them at 85 per cent of parity, established by the loan rate. Cheese, dried skim milk, evaporated milk, hogs, eggs and chickens, are supported at 85 per cent of parity by purchases.

There is reason to believe that the demand for most farm commodities will hold prices well above the supporting level. Supplies of feed are adequate and the ratio of feed cost to the price of livestock products is favorable to increased production.

I don't think farmers want to see farm prices skyrocket, as they did in World War I. Too many of us lost our shirts and our farms in the crash that followed the last war. We are anxious to avoid it again. We want parity prices, but we'll not push for more than parity. That is my interpretation of the sentiment of most farmers, and it is the basis on which the policies of the Department of Agriculture are founded.

Abundant production to meet urgent needs is the request the nation makes of you; the reward parity prices for farm products.



The picture, as the American farmer looks forward to 1942, is both sombre with war's darkness and bright with the promise of victory.

SPG Project 75% Complete

Workers Endeavor to Keep Pace With Defense Speedup

Endeavoring to keep pace with the accelerated national program of defense construction, workers at the Southwestern Proving Ground are bending every effort to bring the possible date, according to Major Werner C. Strecker, C. E. P. E. The Major stated that every employee seems conscious of the fact that his job is an integral part of the total effort and manifests an apparent desire to contribute his bit in as efficient and rapid a fashion as possible.

Work in the field has been somewhat hampered during the past few days due to inclement weather. Considerable rain has at times almost precluded extensive dirt moving operations, but full advantage is being taken of every minute that the machinery can be kept moving.

On a basis of a state of completion at which all facilities may be put into operation, the overall picture shows the project to be approximately 75 per cent complete. This figure does not represent a complete "turn-key" job, but indicates that 75 per cent of the work necessary to putting the entire job in such state that it may be used, has been accomplished.

Forty facilities on the project are 80 per cent complete, and to date there are thirty-one facilities which are between 61 per cent and 87 per cent completed, with eighteen additional facilities between 31 per cent and 60 per cent complete. Preliminary construction has been accomplished on the remaining facilities, but all are yet under the 30 per cent mark.

Construction of the sewer and water systems has reached the point where all lines are in the ground, and completion of the entire systems is progressing on or better than schedule. The electrical distribution system has been pushed to the extent that it is now approximately 70 per cent complete.

With favorable weather, seven or eight more working days should see the runways at the airport poured, and probably the most tedious end of airport construction thereby accomplished.

All employees on the project are responding in a most gratifying manner to the invitations to purchase defense bonds and stamps. No effort toward promoting the sale has been taken on the project other than having them available on the reservation. Arrangements were made with the postmaster of Hope, whereby the stamps and bonds could be sold on the project, and many employees are taking advantage of the convenience offered by this arrangement.

In the past four days personnel employed on the project have laid close to \$1500 on the line for purchase of these defense issues.

With only four more shopping days until Christmas, employees of the W. E. Callahan Construction Company went into town this week with more than \$228,000 in their pockets.

(Continued on page four)



As a farmer himself, Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard knows farm problems first hand. He's pictured above, just after filling out his own 1942 Farm Plan blank for the agricultural program.

White Xmas at 1st Methodist

List of Items All Departments Are to Bring

The First Methodist church will hold a White Christmas at the church at 5:30 o'clock Sunday afternoon, December 21.

Mrs. J. E. Ward, who has charge of it, has announced the following items which the various departments of the church are requested to bring: Nursery and Beginner's Department—fresh fruit.

Primary Department—canned fruit and oatmeal.

Junior Department—canned vegetables.

Junior High Department—Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, and meal.

Young People's Department—sugar.

Mrs. Lester's class—sugar.

Dealers Warned to Register

Registration Form All Business Houses Must File

Many merchants and installment dealers have not yet filed form FR-563 which is their registration to do business.

These forms must be filed with the Federal Reserve Bank, St. Louis, Mo., on or before Dec. 31, 1941. There is a penalty of \$10,000 fine and a penitentiary sentence for failure to secure a license to continue in business after December 31.

This applies only to merchants, banks, dealers, loan and finance companies who do an installment credit business. The forms may be obtained, without cost, from the bank above named.

Postoffice to Stay Open Three Nights

For the convenience of Hope citizens the postoffice will remain open at night until 8 p. m., Robert Wilson, postmaster, announced Saturday. The parcel post and stamp windows will remain open until 8 p. m. on Saturday, Monday and Tuesday nights, it was announced.

Children in Grand Rapids, Mich., primary school direct their own study periods.

Word From City Proves Report of Japs False

Dutch Land on Sarawak; New Attack on U. S. Mindanao Island

By the Associated Press
In the first word flashed from siege-bound Hongkong, in 24-hour Governor Sir Mark Young reported that the British Far East stronghold was still holding out Saturday while Japanese dispatches pictured the island Malaya capital as in flames and declared the Jap flag was flying over Hongkong harbor.

The official Japanese news agency, Domei, acknowledged, however, that the expected fall of the colony had been slowed off by their stubborn defense.

Far to the south seaborne Dutch troops were reported to have made a surprise attack in northern Borneo and captured some Japanese invaders who landed earlier in the week in British Sarawak.

Dutch Inlet Heavy Blows
Dutch bombers also were reported to have inflicted smashing blows on Japanese warships and troop transports off Sarawak.

The siege of Hongkong, a Tokyo broadcast said, the British garrison was encircled on Mount Victoria, in the heart of the city, and that Japanese troops had occupied the rest of the city. Victoria is the capital of the colony.

Tokyo press dispatches said trucks were carrying the disarmed British troops through the city's streets from the fighting zone and reported that fire largely destroyed the main office of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp. and large bill banks near the Victoria docks.

Governor Doesn't Flee
The governor of Hongkong reported by telegraph Saturday that operations were proceeding on the island, the British Colonial Office in London announced.

The governor wishes it to be known that the Japanese story that he left the island is false.

A Berlin broadcast Friday quoted Tokyo reports that he had fled the colony, already half overrun by Japanese forces.

In the American Philippine theater U. S. Army headquarters reported heavy fighting developed at the predominantly Japanese city of Davao on Mindanao Island, 600 miles south of Manila where four enemy transports landed swarms of troops at dawn Saturday.

An official Tokyo broadcast said the invaders were smashing the resistance of U. S. army forces and that the situation was rapidly turning in favor of the Japanese.

Chinese Attack
CHUNGKING—(AP)—Chinese army headquarters announced Saturday that Chinese forces were pressing along the Canton-Kowloon railway in an effort to relieve the British on the island of Hongkong.

Chinese forces were on their way into Shumchun Friday on the mainland border of the British colony. Official reports said the Chinese destroyed the Japanese defenses there and blew up an ammunition dump.

The assault had immediate effect in forcing the Japanese to rush reinforcements from the Hongkong area and fighting developed northeast of Shumchun, the Chinese said.

The Chinese now are attacking Japanese positions 10 miles northeast of Shumchun.

Negro Xmas Seal Committee Organized

As the seal campaign nears an end Hope negroes were urged to buy Christmas seals to help further the fight against tuberculosis.

Under the direction of Rep. Talbot Field, Jr., chairman of the Hempstead drive, the negro chamber of commerce organized a unit for sales among the negro citizens. The workers are: R. C. Lewis, R. J. Blakeley, Early Mae Poindexter, Ora Laycock, Florine Simpson, Ellis Brown, Jim Jones, and Perry Joshua.

